

IN THE NEWS



Senior Airman Corey Clements

Seven candles were lit during Wednesday's remembrance -- six in memory of the Jews killed in the Holocaust and one candle for all others.

Holocaust

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Kolender was captured by the Germans and is the sole survivor of five.

Col. Karl Young, 437th Airlift Wing vice commander, asked everyone to renew his or her commitment against these atrocities and "to never let the world forget." Kolender said it was their duty to educate others about the horrors and that only you can prevent it from happening again. "I'm not here to seek pity, that is irrelevant, but to inform you of the facts. It has to be told: hate, prejudice and anti-Semitism are evil and the Holocaust was a direct result."

Engel added, "let it be a

reminder for the future so that the past does not repeat itself—do not forget the Holocaust." Engel added later after the ceremony that few movies accurately depict the experience and the ones that do, such as Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List," only show about 20 percent of what really happened. "If they made an accurate movie, nobody would show because it would be too horrible to show."

Auschwitz was "an extermination camp and pure hell," according to Kolender and Engel. Only about two percent of the people sent to Auschwitz survived the brutal work camps, starvation and inhuman living conditions.

Letter to the Commander: Our Best Retention Tool...our PEOPLE!

(Editor's note: The following letter was sent to the 437th Airlift Wing commander and was forwarded up the chain of command to the Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff.)

Sir,

I was reminded yesterday by several of your NCOs of why I love the Air Force and wouldn't want to work anywhere else. Yesterday morning, just before lunch, I received a call telling me that my 7-year-old son, Chad, was injured at the static display aircraft and that an ambulance was on the way. Chad was on a field trip with his class and walked into a propeller, cutting open his scalp and covering him in blood. Mrs. Marie Miller, a school helper on-scene and the wife of one of my NCOs, called my control center to make sure I was notified.

I arrived on-scene about the same time as the medical folks and saw my son, blood all over his face and chest, laying on the ground with his head cradled gently in Tech. Sgt. Murphy's (Public Affairs) lap. TSgt Murphy had already initiated first aid and had the bleeding stopped. He also had Chad calmed down and in pretty good spirits...all things considered. Tech. Sgt. Murphy and Tech. Sgt. Brian Jones (Public Affairs) were apparently escorting the field trip students around the base. They were the ones who contacted our ambulance for response and made sure all of the other kids were safely on the bus before the ambulance even arrived. TSgt Murphy even arranged to have my truck driven back to my squadron and the keys dropped off at the control center so that I could ride in the ambulance with my son. This certainly isn't in the PA job description, but these guys don't meet standards...they exceed them. I know—this isn't the first time I've worked with them.

Once the ambulance personnel arrived on-scene they took over first aid and prepared my son for transport (I wish I could say it's the first time Chad's been in an ambulance with a head injury). Medical services journeymen Staff Sgt. Renata Sutton, the ambulance driver, and Staff Sgt. Dale Black, the EMT, allowed me to ride with my son in the ambulance. This made all the difference in the world to Chad. SSgt Black and I talked with Chad and helped keep his spirits up on the ride, all the while SSgt Black was checking vital signs and communicating with Trident Hospital, our destination. Upon arrival at Trident, SSgt Sutton actually had Chad laughing as she explained how he could get anything he wanted from his parents now...yes, to include Pokemon cards. These NCOs aren't paid to make bleeding kids laugh and erase their fears, but that's exactly what they did.

My pay is adequate, housing is satisfactory, and the retirement will keep me out of the poor house...but none of those things are enough to make me work long hours, sometimes spending months away from my family. Three things keep me serving our country. Our country is worth fighting for. I love to lead our men and women. Finally, I get to work with the very best men and women that America has to offer and they are more than just a team...they're my family—that really came home yesterday.

Very Respectfully,
Maj. Matt Eatman
437th Security Forces Squadron Commander

Savings Bond Campaign 2000 begins; I-Bonds offered

The Savings Bond Campaign 2000 began Thursday. Savings bonds are more attractive than ever this year because the U.S. Treasury introduced the I-Bond, which offers a very competitive 7.49 percent APR. The I-bond, or inflationary bond, was introduced to help hedge the effect of inflation over time and protect the value of your future savings. It does this by adding a fixed percentage rate of approximately 3.6 percent to the inflationary index which is reported annually. For example, if inflation is reported at 4.1 percent, the U.S. treasury adds the fixed rate of 3.6 percent and adjusts the I-bond's interest to 7.7 percent.

There are numerous advantages to savings bonds. First, the availability of payroll deduction helps provide savings discipline that many people lack. By setting up an allotment, you're assured to "pay yourself first." Secondly, you can participate in savings bonds for as little as \$5 a month. Other investment alternatives require much larger amounts to participate. Also, savings bonds can be tax-free if used to pay for education-related expenses of a dependent child or at the very minimum, they are tax-deferred until redeemed. And perhaps most importantly, savings bonds are a very safe investment as they are backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. government.

For more information, call project officer 1st Lt. John Woodruff 963-5203.



photos by Lt. Col. Ed Memi

Memorial Day ceremony

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Hiram E. Mann (right) presents Col. Rusty Findley with an honorary membership in the Walterboro Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. during a Memorial Day observance Monday in Walterboro, S.C. Mann flew 48 combat missions in the P-51 Mustang with the 332nd Fighter Group in the European-Africa theater. The Walterboro chapter of the TAI is named after Mann and he received his combat training at Walterboro Army Airfield. Findley was the guest speaker for the observance. At left, a C-17 fly-by was a part of the ceremony.